

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING & GENERAL SERVICES

SPECIAL DISTRICTS DIVISION

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

MD-42 Still Meadow Water System Has Levels of Arsenic, Gross Alpha, and Uranium Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Results of samples taken from your water system for 2009 showed:

- **Arsenic** levels ranging from 18.3 to 25.3 $\mu\text{g/l}$, at times exceeding the MCL of 10 $\mu\text{g/l}$.
- **Gross Alpha** levels ranging from 12 to 35 pCi/L, at times exceeding the MCL of 15 pCi/L
- **Uranium** levels ranging from 11 to 37.7 $\mu\text{g/L}$, at times exceeding the MCL of 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

What should I do?

- **Use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water) for drinking purposes.**
- The water may be used for bathing, washing dishes, washing clothes and watering the yard at no risk.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

- **This is not an emergency.** If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. While at times some of the sources exceed the MCL for these contaminants, the blending of the water in the system lowers these levels.
- However, *some people who drink water containing **arsenic** in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk to getting cancer.*
- Both the **Gross Alpha's** and **Uranium** occur naturally in water due to erosion of

granite rock. The **Gross Alpha's** are a type of radiation emitted known as **alpha** radiation. Some people who drink water containing **alpha** emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

- Some people who drink water containing **Uranium** in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? What is being done?

Arsenic, uranium, and gross alpha particles are naturally occurring contaminants in the ground water in your area. The county applied to the California Department of Public Health for funding assistance in resolving these problems over two years ago. There are two options available to fix this problem, treatment of the water or blending with a clean source. The blending is the most economical and the one most likely to receive funding. In the application process, we have proposed an intertie to the Hillview Water System.

In January 2010, the State changed the process in awarding SRF funding. They will be releasing funding in 2 phases. The first phase will be for planning and design work; the second phase will be for the actual construction work. **This summer** the planning and design funding is supposed to be released. When we get more detailed actionable information we will notify the property owners in your district to schedule a meeting to discuss the options. We will continue to provide updates in the quarterly notices and in the Consumers Confidence Report (CCR) in July.


This notice is being sent to you by Madera County Special Districts Maintenance District 42 Still Meadow II Water System

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS: Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property

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For more information you may contact the Special Districts Office at (559) 675-7820 or at 2037 W. Cleveland Ave., Madera, CA 93637. You may also find useful information on this topic at the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.


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Cc: Environmental Health
District File